Eastern States in the country are highly vulnerable to drug smuggling from Burma and that with the emergence of some new routes, unprecedented drug trafficking from the Indo-Burma border in anticipated during the year;

(b) if so, what percentage of the drugs seized in the country is smuggled from across the Indo-Burma border and what is the percentage of rise in the drug trafficking in the North Eastern States during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government have chalked out any strategy to strengthen the existing measures to check the growing drug trafficking from the Indo-Burma border and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) According to the International Narcotics Control Board, Burma remains a major source of illicit opium, most of which is produced in remote areas of northern and eastern parts of the country. Due to the common border with Burma, India continues to be vulnerable to drug trafficking from the Golden Triangle region. The seizures of heroin of Golden Triangle origin are given below. The quantities of the drug seized in the whole country are given within brackets:

Name of drug	1985	1986	1987	1988 (Upto June)
	(Quantity in Kilograms)			
Heroin	4 (761)	5 (2621)	2 (2747)	2 (1708)

(c) Government have initiated various aggressive counter-measures against drug trafficking which, *inter alia*, include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery, especially along the international borders, adoption of a liberalise reward scheme for officers and informers, stengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the aegies of SAARC). Special narcotics cells have been created in all the Customs and Central Excise Collectorates all over the country besides the state police organisations.

Further, the Prevention of illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance, 1988 has been promulgated by the President on 4.7.1988. Under this Ordinance, 157 detention orders have been issued so far, of which 130 persons have been detained, thus immobilising them from indulging in illicit traffic in drugs.

An Indian delegation, headed by the Minister of State For Finance (Revenue) visited Burma in July, 1988. In the talks with the Burmese authorities, the drug trafficking situation in both the countries and the countermeasures taken were reviewed with an emphasis for institutionalising the exchange of information between the law enforcement agencies of both the countries.

Report of the working group of capital markets

3437. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered working group on capital markets constituted by Government has recommended total exemption for divided income from personal taxation to mitigate the adverse effects of double taxation; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the other recommendations made by the working group and what is the decision, if any, taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Working Group has not yet submitted its report.

(b) Does not arise.

Seizure of Gold

3438. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold weighing 90 kgs. valued Rs. 2.78 crores have been seized in the Capital on the 21st July, 1988 as reported in 'the Hindu' of the 22nd July, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection and if so, what action has been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have seized 772 gold biscuits weighing 10 tolas each and collectively valued at Rs. 2.79 crores approximately on 19th|20th July, 1988 from three trucks which were intercepted at Matheri and Kurukshera in Haryana.

(c) 10 persons found to be involved in these cases were arrested and also detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

Sale of Gold by Bharat Gold Mines Limited

3439. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Gold Mines Limited has recently been permitted by Government to sell gold in open market; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a part of a package of measures taken by the Government for making the operations of the Company viable in future.

Protection of wild'ife from Natural Calamities

3440. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious drought which prevailed during the last two consecutive years had affected wildlife in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure that wild'ife may not be affected due to natural calamities and if so, what amount has been allocated for this purpose so far?